Punjab during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Number of employees against whom complaints received
2003	2830
2004	3895
2005 (Upto September)	4096

(c) The details of the action taken against the delinquent officials are as under:—

Nature of Penalty imposed	2003	2004	2005
Dismissal/removal/compulsorily retired	28	23	58
Reduction in rank	63	56	32
Reduction in time scale of pay	401	192	431
Withholding of increment	54	09	20
Recovery from pay of the loss caused to FCI	1410	2780	2770
Censure	468	520	521
TOTAL	2424	3580	3832

Decreasing sugar mills

†2622. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last few years, the number of sugar mills and factories is decreasing constantly;

(b) if so, their total number in the country in 2002-03 and the estimated number thereof in 2005-06; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the despite the decreasing number of sugar mills, the production of sugar in the country is increasing, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of sugar factories in the country during 2002-2003 were 496. Though it is premature to estimate the number of sugar mills during 2005-06, the sugar factories as on 31.10.2005 were 571.

(c) Question does not arise.

Complaints by MPs

2623. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that letters/correspondence pertaining to complaints by the MPs are not being responded to by his Ministry;

(b) the details of the letters/correspondence from January, 2005 till date addressed to his Ministry by the Members of Parliament;

(c) whether any such letter pertaining to complaint against the violation of condition by some magazines in New Delhi is pending for reply;

(d) the status on this letter/correspondence till date, alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

BIS on technical barriers to trade agreement

2624. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Indian Standards has been entrusted with the task to work on technical barriers to trade agreement;